

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) In a diagnostic method for detecting dysplastic ~~epithelial~~ epithelial tissue, which diagnostic method includes the step of ~~topically applying a mitochondrial marking agent to the locus of suspect tissue which selectively stains cancerous and precancerous cells~~

topically applying a mitochondrial marking agent, which selectively stains the mitochondria of cancerous and precancerous cells in said locus, to the locus of suspect tissue, said locus comprising epithelial cells and the extracellular matrix, said matrix being subject to temporary staining by said agent, thereby leading to possible false positive results of said diagnostic method,

the improvement in said diagnostic method of for decreasing the rate of false positive results of said method, said improvement comprising the step of inhibiting the marking staining of said extracellular matrix components in said locus by said ~~stain~~ marking agent, by topically applying to said locus, prior to applying said marking agent to said locus, a solution of a non-toxic amphiphilic protein in a pharmacologically acceptable solvent, prior to application of said stain.

2.(canceled)